"I'm a lover of freedom, equity and equality, and will fight to my last breath for it. Unlike those who may regret a thing they did to get convicted or those who tempered their actions for fear of the consequences, I regret nothing, if only not doing more before I was caught. I will live for the people and I'll die for the people because I love the people, we who want freedom cannot rest till it comes."

*"Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.*
*Just keep going. No feeling is final."*

*a selection of writings from*

**malikspeaks.noblogs.org**

# MALIK

## *ALL* I fear is *NOT* fighting

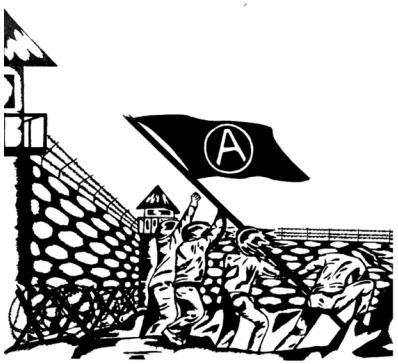
## *essays from the inside #2*

# SPEAKS!

*malikspeaks.noblogs.org*

updated June 14, 2026

with whatever weapons at hand





The Oregon Department of Corrections appears to have effectively disappeared Malik Muhammad, a Black Palestinian anarchist and antifascist prisoner serving one of the longest sentences handed to a protester after the 2020 George Floyd uprising. According to court documents, Muhammad threw a Molotov cocktail at police in Oregon in 2020. In 2022, they pleaded guilty to 14 felonies and received a concurrent 10-year federal and state sentence in Oregon State Prison. On Monday, March 30, 2026, members of Muhammad's support team noticed something alarming: their profile had vanished from the prison messaging system GettingOut. Around the same time, their name no longer appeared in Oregon's inmate search database. This disappearance happened in the wake of a call-in campaign to once again get Muhammad out of solitary confinement. Since then, family and supporters have been scrambling for answers, calling Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution (EOCI) and multiple Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) offices. They've gotten almost nothing in return. After over a week without any answers, we were finally able to locate our dear friend Malik. We got no information from ODOC, BOP, or any other DOC—the only reason we were able to find them is because they were able to send a letter. They still haven't gotten an attorney call. Malik is currently being held in South Carolina. ODOC chose to send them as far as they could away from their lawyer and support base, to another state carceral system on the complete other side of the country. This is a blatant attempt to isolate Malik and break down their support system. Moving an inmate from one state system to another like this is highly unusual and represents an alarming escalation. In the short time they've been in South Carolina, Malik has been horrifically mistreated, with SCDC cutting off their hair and forcing them into an overcrowded cell where they have to sleep on the ground. They are currently being held at the Kirkland Reception and Evaluation Center (a holdover facility) and they have no idea how long they will be there before they are transferred elsewhere. Some inmates have been kept there for months and months with extremely limited access to basic things like showers and comms. Holdover life is in many ways as bad or worse than solitary, since inmates have no property, no programming, and few chances to leave their cells. We know from Casey Goonan's account of their recent prolonged holdover time at Mendoza what a toll this time can take. We don't know how long Malik will be at their current location, but we hope it won't be long. The recent escalation in Malik's treatment comes as the state has dramatically increased repression of antifascists. It's only been a couple of weeks since the verdict in the first Prairieland court case showed that the state will use torture, intimidation, and blatant lies to get its way when it comes to repressing antifascism and advancing its "Antifa Scare" agenda. Malik's removal to SC is yet another example of the state targeting them for their identity and their antifascist politics. Malik only gets two envelopes a month and has no other access to comms at the moment, but you can still write to them to express your support. Please do so.

*Write to Malik:*

**Malik Muhammed #400523**
**Marion 183**
**Broad River Correctional Institution**
**4460 Broad River Road**
**Columbia, SC 29210**



**"My name is Malik Farrad Muhammad. I'm a 26-year-old black/Palestinian pansexual Muslim (yes, hella confusing). I'm an anarchist antifascist, anti-racist abolitionist (yes, both cops and prisons) for my love of freedom! My first protest was in high school: a walkout staged after Treyvon Martin's murder. From there, I never really got active again until "Bernie or Bust" and then, of course, the George Floyd uprising. I traveled the country and organized and fought and was ultimately kidnapped ransomed and now held prisoner here at OSP. I have a beautiful son and a loving family back home in the Midwest. I'm also a veteran, I was a tanker in the army — and no, I'm not proud that I was part of the murder machine, so don't thank me for my service. I love music more than anything almost, am a guitarist and aspiring pianist, all genres.**

**Not much else to say except that I'm a lover of freedom, equity and equality, and will fight to my last breath for it. Unlike those who may regret a thing they did to get convicted or those who tempered their actions for fear of the consequences, I regret nothing, if only not doing more before I was caught. I will live for the people and I'll die for the people because I love the people, we who want freedom cannot rest till it comes."**

**"Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror. Just keep going. No feeling is final." — Rainer Maria Rilke**

# Queer/Trans Liberation

August 29, 2025

To be is to become. Change is the only constant in life, in love, in the evolution of humanity and all species. It is inevitable. Fighting against change is counterproductive; molding or shaping change is only logical. To explore, to endeavor to find humanity's pontentialities is the objective of humans — finding limits and constructed barriers of the species and pushing past them, both as individuals and a collective. To break free. Of course, not without consideration for lesser conscious and capable species, but as a role explicitly with that in mind. As Uncle Ben told Peter, "With great power comes great responsibility." And we bear a responsibility to our planet and the ecosystems here to maintain their considerations.

Humanity is one species. Gender, race, sexuality are all constructed. The human need for control spawned a need to categorize, taxonomize, and characterize things, creatures, humans. This leads to unlearning and breaking away, with new constructs to rebuke and liberate one's self from societal norms. In other words, change occurs, and the change that exists as an inevitability can be shaped.

To be is to become. Being cisgendered is not objectively wrong in itself or a wrong way to be. However, cisgender as the norm or default to be is. Ethical consensual monogamy as a choice is not inherently oppressive, but it being a default makes it so. As with being heterosexual, but when these things are our norms, our de facto states of being, they leave no room to become. When it's default or normal, it operates through the lens of compulsion, mandate, hierarchy, repression, and stagnation to change and becoming. Conservatism as such is the pure definition of resistance to change and as such is antithetical to being because to be is to become, to transgress, to change.

So, to be and to become takes smashing paradigms and societal constructs of control, ideas of normalcy, regarding things objectively, and recognizing the change or fluidity of all things. This leads me to one of the main points of this essay, "everyone is gay," as Kurt Cobain says. And no one is, as no one is not. Everyone is sexual, and no one is. Everyone is trans, and no one is. Humanity exists in potentialities, as everything changes, as I've stated so. In endless potentialities, endless possibilities, so

The oppressor will not destroy itself. It will not give you the tools to dismantle it, and it won't aid you in its destruction in any way, other than wearing a target for you to direct that revolutionary love, rage, and solidarity.

brutalized, abused, and worked to death. Recognize that that is now. None of this is sustainable. You have no options now. Our planet is dying, genocides occur unabashed, and oppression is here — now. The poverty and genocidal conditions of capitalism, white supremacy, and patriarchy are inescapable. You're being brutalized and abused now. You're being worked to death now. So resist and act now, boldly and united in solidarity and faith, with revolutionary love for the people because the pigs won't act for you. They're not here to protect you.

DHS, ICE, and Border Patrol are not your friends or neighbors. They're the oppressor, the enemy, fascist jack boots. And the nicest one you know will drag a child from a mother's arms and put them in a cage if told to do so. They lowered the age for these agencies to 18 and raised the cap to 60. Why? Because there's no jobs, and retirement is impossible, so the avenue they created is to become a part of the oppressive force. So there's one dichotomy, the oppressed and the oppressor. Fascism conscripts everyone.

Only, this war is being fought against us, at home, so these people have chosen their side. You would not say that a Nazi or a Brown Shirt was your friend, right? So don't delude yourself. The National Guard can refuse to call. Contrary to popular belief, these people being deployed first are volunteers. Yeah. They want to do this. The ones that don't can say no. Do you look at the israeli iof zionist cucks as friends or neighbors? No. And those who refuse to call, those who chose not to participate in genocide, are the better of them. The guards here have the same choice.

The only ones that matter are us. The people. The only ones who will suffer and fight and die alongside you is us, the people. The path to liberation can only be trod together in solidarity and armed, collective, direct actions, with those that matter, against those that seek domination and power over. If you pursue liberation for Palestine, native land, immigrants, Black and brown, women, and queers, you must see who the real enemy is, and don't be fooled by those who would seek to deceive you and lull you into pacificity, begging you not to act while they "handle it," by doing nothing.

See, oppression breeds contempt, which breeds more oppression, which breeds resistance, and then increased oppression. Only one thing can happen. The end to the oppression by the destruction of the oppressor.



it's a possibility any given human is asexual, trans, nonbinary, straight, gay, monogamous, and also possibly not.

If it's a possibility looked at through a lens of freedom, autonomy and choice, change, fluidity, objectivity, and openness and love, this is a very rational statement. If looked at through the lens of the oppressors, constructed systems of control, obstinance to change, fear of it, a force that which is not to be feared, well then, what I said sounds abhorrent. The oppressor fears the queer community because it fears change, it fears these carefully created constructs put in place to control the population will crumble and expose the state for the small, feeble, petulant child it is (no offense to children, you are better than them).

This leads to my second and biggest point. We must abandon ALL constructs and systems of control. Gender, sexuality, race, government. All of it. Even our constructed places we've created to break from any given norm poses a threat, the ability to isolate and oppress. It causes gatekeeping and harm to the very folks we seek to liberate with our ideas. Aces break from sexuality to *be* and assert their right *to* and existence, yet because purity, whiteness, and heteronormativity is to be aspired to, it can isolate those who DO engage in sex, or are disabled as they seek to not be diagnosed. The queer community as a whole can keep out aces who are cisgendered. The trans community has its own expectations, as does race. Consensual non monags can have an air of superiority.

The point is, in trying to liberate, we assimilate, we break away our being, then try to get it close to the standard normal. As close as possible. Though we always end up confused when our lives are not radically different, just because we have representation and visiblity.

But we'd need no visibility if we weren't shrouded in this blanket of a white supremacist, capitalist, neo-Christian colonial state. The very concept of normalcy bleeds into an everyday, even as we break away! Then you have a normal gay or normal poly person, a normal Asian, a gold star lesbian, a normal Black person, etc. In this race to be recognized, to *be*, we stuff ourselves into a box and stifle our ability to *become*. We also stifle other's ability to be and become. Whiteness and purity are already out of reach for most of us, but to find a community of folks we identify with and STILL not be enough is devastating. There does not need to be a normal, and we must remember that.

Which leads me to, whiteness is a disease. It is. Whiteness, white supremacy, capital governments, normalcy, purity, etc. Whiteness, the social construct created by white people, is the problem. But further than that, constructs at ALL are problematic. Even the most well meaning, inclusive construct is not favorable to us. Everything is fluid, nothing is permanent, everything is made to change. We progress or transgress. To take a bit from Trans Femme Futures, "we are who we are, and we're nothing that we're not becoming together." Together, we'll find it, but we must first smash all of it.

If whiteness is the disease, normalcy, status quo, standards, PURITY, then the only cure is not to just run counter to, but to undo, a normal. My lover once said [while quoting a zine], "dressing in bloc and destroying everything is the queerest thing you can do." I find that true. Smash all constructs. Abolish gender, sexuality, race, borders, hierarchy, and all! Embrace anarchy.

Everything and everyone is becoming. Nothing that is just IS, it's also NOT. And thus nothing can be identified, but what it's just not or is perceived as being now, because to be is to become. I assert that in this sense, the natural way of things, of humans, is trans. Someone once said that God gave humans part in creation, how we turn grapes into wine, wheat into bread, grains into alcohol, and so on. So why would, if you subscribe to the idea of a deity, it NOT allow for humans to create, even within themselves?

To a more logical, demystified outlook, the natural state of things never just is social order. Humans, plants, and animals are all in a state of flux, of becoming, that's simple evolution. And as with evolution, a base was randomly provided, and life changed it, became. We see this state, and it relates to social order as things are NOW. They have not always been. A couple hundred years ago, Blacks were seen as 3/4 of a human. Before that, the world was flat and the center of the universe. Monarchs ruled because they said a deity blessed them to. Today is far from that, in a sense.

Things never were just "is," states change and exist in flux, change is the only constant. And if Murray Bookchin is to be believed, as history can seemingly show, change has always been in a direction of freedom. Evolution has constantly tried to free humans. There have been forces and authors against such change, of course, but the heading is freedom and



Police Bureau, and Kotek and the mayor acknowledge their brutalization but refuse to act. They refuse to have their pigs act.

It hurts because I'd die for the people. I'd not hesitate to act for my Portland family. All enemies, both foreign and domestic, that silly oath I swore. I swore that oath, not to a flag or nation, though. I would and I still vow to fight for and defend the people, the oppressed, as a mujahideen should. I vow to beat back the oppressors wherever I find them. So both foreign and domestic, regardless of your three letter name, an enemy of the people is an enemy of me. Your enemies are mine, and Portland must know *us* is the only thing that we have.

All we got is us. No one is coming to save us. No one. Not one, not in Portland, not Governor Newsom in Cali, not Pritzker in Chicago, not Mamdani in New York. All we got is us. They have their team. They're in their camp. Fight for us. Fight back. Pacificity won't save you, and there will never be a time when all of the masses are ready. No, rise up now. Resist. Fight for each other, protect yourself and each other. You're a frog in boiling water, and they're saying it's fine 'cause they're not in the water.

In a fascist autocracy, loyal opposition is just that. Loyal to their opposition. Trump may lock up or bankrupt his opponents, but most will know how to survive as loyal opposition. Useful only to keep you in line and hopeful in the system that's killing us. In a fascist police state, Kotek, Gavin, Pritzker, none will fight back. Not for you. A lawsuit is the best you can hope for. And when it gets overturned and/or Trump does what he wants anyway, when the streets are full of troops, DHS, ICE, Border Patrol, and other militarized jack boots, and the checkpoints and midnight raids of apartment complexes, dragging folks from their homes is a daily occurrence, and the scope of deplorables expands to not just Black or brown immigrants, but queer, disabled, houseless, transient, and all non-Christians, and others, being rounded up, branded, and labeled, like in Nazi death camps, Kotek, Pritzker, and Gavin won't be beside you. AOC and the Squad, Bernie Sanders, they won't be helping you or sitting with you. They'll be at the same dinners as Trump. They'll live in their gated communities with private security. They'll oppose him just enough to get elected, maintain loyal opposition, while us suffers.

Don't wait 'till you're in the camp to react, and resistance seems futile, and you have no other options, and you'd rather fight and die than be

abandoned the people every time. Why? Because they protect capital and property. The reason Portland Police Bureau will not act is because they are, no matter what, on the side of the oppressor.

DHS, ICE, Portland Police Bureau, Border Patrol, all pigs by a different three letter name. It's no skin off their back, you being assaulted. That's why they won't protect you. But should you hurt the feelings of DHS, watch Portland Police Bureau hunt you down. Use direct action and defend yourself and your people, and surely Portland Police Bureau will arrest you. The AG will prosecute you. The mayor will say that your actions have no place in the city, and Kotek will stand by him. Meanwhile, they won't even file a lawsuit against the DOJ's unlawful actions in assaulting their citizens. They're on the same team, and you're not on it.

Trump's actions make them uncomfortable in exposing them for the weak and feckless leaders they are. Trump pardoned all of his people. Your leaders won't protect you. They won't even file a lawsuit for you. They'll virtue signal and hold press conferences and tell you to stay calm and don't take the bait. Like if you were tied to a chair, being beaten viciously and tortured, and the person watching this happen, stands by rather than step in, tells you exactly what's happening to you, and then says, don't let them get you mad.

Like they told the slaves to turn the other cheek. Or natives to forgive because this is "our land." Like they tell Asians to forget the past racism and segregation. How soon we forget the Exclusion Act and internment camps. They tell immigrants to trust the process, as they're herded onto buses and packed like sardines in camps, deprived of basics and even lawyer access, then shipped out. Don't worry, the justice system works slow, but it works, they say.

They say that because they can. They're sitting pretty and comfy. They're not housing insecure, food insecure. They aren't in the desolate job market. They aren't threatened with violence daily. They can say this, like politicians can shut down the government and still get paid. No agreement on a budget, but they all agree, they should be paid.

This breaks my heart to hear 'cause I love Portland. I love my people. I love my Portland family. It aches to hear the few who still have hope in this whole thing, and they are brutalized by DHS in front of Portland



liberation from. Freedom from. I believe freedom from ALL constructs.

So just as the world once was a way, or governments structured one way, then changed, I argue the state of "is" is insufficient for any rational, autonomous human to just say it "IS" and accept that. So with regards to humans, a child with a penis or vagina — some anatomical part that has been used to define the whole of a human's existence, attaching to it baggage, stigmas, and societal and personal gendered roles, without choice — does not constitute the child being male forever, nor female. If to be is to become, the part is irrelevant, but if you MUST attach meaning to it, it ONLY means as much as the human it's attached to ascribes meaning to it. The appendage does not obligate the child to only dress one way, or only bear children, etc.

The natural order of things is change, flux, evolving, and becoming. To stagnate a human from the womb and prescribe damn near its whole life in mere seconds is asinine. It's antithetical to progress, evolution, and it's just as fascist republicans say, "NOT natural." It's in fact, so far from natural and godly, republicans should flog themselves and repent.

Being trans is the natural state of being, as you are becoming, masc or female, androgynous, outlaw. You may perhaps identify how you appear to society, but in doing away with prescribed genders at birth, we do away with it all, rules and dress too, so then perhaps there's no need for an identifier. I assert again, everyone is trans, everyone is gay, AND everyone is not, we are beings, being and becoming.

We're put in a box, pegged at birth, as Freddie Mercury once said, "I've got to break free!" We must break free from the chains of all constructs! And there's only one form of pegging I like, and that too is a choice and consent, not ascribed at birth.

Queer folk are a very real existential threat to the status quo. The trans agenda is real. The worlds we make, are making, are meant to usurp the violence we face now. Not all queers have radical politics, but queer politics are always radical.

During the AIDS epidemic, a whole community of folks were left to fend for themselves, forced to support and survive, relying only on one another. Even before that, trans care relying on each other, being

excluded, invisibilized in a movement for homosexual visibility. And decades later, in 2025, as Trump's MAGA hat America tried to invisibilize a community and deny medicalized care, trans folks are left, still surviving and thriving together, making and building worlds rooted in communalism and mutual aid, and care we can materialize, devoid at the state. But this type of operation outside of the state just will not do. It's one thing to seek assimilation against the state's gatekeeping of normal and hierarchy because at least those things are recognized as inherent, but should we not just envision the world outside of the state, but make it exist inside of that world we build, together, caring for one another? Should this world reject social standards and norms within the state and reject the desire to assimilate, and rather destroy and usurp social structures, well, that world might just look attractive to more and more people who now see that there's an alternative to the current order of things.

The nuclear family is out. The family bond is stickers[?], and water doesn't hold, we see and feel the love of people we aren't related to, but who mother us, who care for us as we are. They see us. We dispel the notion of playing into a gendered, hierarchical, capitalist hellscape, and rather live outside of it. These simple ideas, expressed in trans femme care in the queer community, where we are questioning the very foundations upon which capitalism was built in there and thrive, are dangerous to the fascist regime that wants assimilation as it's touted as what is to be aspired to be to. Queerness, transness, is arguably the most dangerous politics, and at the same time, the most hopeful for our future. A future based in rooted in trans care and ethics, in queer politics is the best way, to me. We can go about world making without repeating the sentences of those that came before us,. We must reject all social hierarchical systems, and we need to the experience and know how to care for one another physical, mental, and emotional capacities laterally with openness.

No other ethics, I believe has crossed all systems of control, race, sex, gender, relationships, family structure, capital, and all of the facets of oppression, the intersectionality of queerness and the experience in care laterally, oppositional to the government, is what I believe can save us and take us into this new world. We must destroy this one, but I believe the only ones who can get us through the transition to the next, is trans femme ethics, with queer politics. Yes, the trans agenda is real, and it is the threat. I also argue, it's the salvation too.



# "ICE in Portland"

**October 22, 2025**

There actually are lawless criminals fucking up the streets of Portland and destabilizing communities across the nation. They go by the name of DHS, ICE, Border Patrol, and the fascist jack boots employed as the National Guard. And this is abhorrent. The pigs in 2020 protected Proud Boys and other fascists assaulting Portlanders in these city streets. The pigs worked with DHS in assaulting and kidnapping Portlanders in these city streets. Tear gas cakes the residential neighborhoods and family homes, courtesy of the Portland Police Bureau. All this under the guise of protecting the public. Protecting the public from "violent rioters," they say. Anarchists and criminals terrorizing the community, they say.

Yet, it's 2025, the fascist autocrat deployed DHS, ICE, and the National Guard to come and terrorize Portlanders. DHS and ICE assaulting, gassing, and terrorizing Portlanders in these city streets, this being done in front of the Portland Police Bureau, a body meant to protect the public from violent criminals. And… what is DHS and ICE? They are, even by Kotek and the mayor's own words last night [10/5], violating the rights of their citizens.

They're using excessive force and assaulting people in front of Portland Police Bureau. And what did they do? Nothing. When a Portlander asks for aid, and the Portland Police Bureau says they weren't told what to do, that's dereliction of duty. And when the governor tells reporters that if, or rather when, Trump violates court rulings and deploys National Guard, that she can't do anything about it, and the mayor's Portland Police Bureau can't protect their citizens from being assaulted, that they can't even guarantee a lawsuit — that is far beyond dereliction, that's far beyond abandoning your post. You're a failed leader.

They'll act bold and brave to protect Proud Boys and Trump supporters. They'll brutalize and criminalize protesters, murder unarmed Black and brown minorities, pack their prisons with poor minorities, yet fail every time to act to protect the most vulnerable. Sweeney shot someone, Proud Boys violently beat people with the pigs next to them. The Proud Boy who was stopped in downtown Portland was stopped by one of us, the people. When cars careened through crowds, it was us who acted. The pigs

don't have a choice but to live and go on, in an act of defiance in itself, but for lack of options to. No one chooses to do hole time. You just do it because you have no choice. Gaza is devastated, but they go on in defiance, and what's the other choice? Hamas took up arms and fought in resistance their violent oppressor, in defiance, and what is the other choice? A life of servility, oppression, degradation, persecution, and violence? A slower death. Resistance is essence. Under occupation and violence from the state and institutions, it's a right. It's also the only thing to do.

I'm too cold to write anymore now. I'm sniffling and catching a fucking cold.



# "We Are Interconnected & Inseparable"

**September 9, 2025**

Our sib in the UK, T. Hohxa, has direct action in her blood. For 28 long days she resisted colonizer fascists. Every ounce of resistance is a win. She won, we all did. Solidarity is the most important part of our movement. I wouldn't have cared if she were asking for a PS5 and a 25in TV or a chartered flight to Indiana. If you ride, we all ride!

Resistance is essence and solidarity foundational. International solidarity is imperative. If Palestinian prisoners know and care about the Pelican Bay hunger strikes, then we should care about them and our siblings everyday who are captured and held unjustly. Do not let imaginary borders and fascist nations tell you it doesn't matter because it's happening "over there." All struggle is connected, all movements dire. Direct action is imperative.

It's necessary for us to maintain cross-continent solidarity because "that" isn't happening "over there" to "them" but oppression is "HERE" and happening to "US" all. Our movements are stronger together. The people are stronger together. Don't let them separate us. And remember as Palestinians starve in Gaza, so do the unjustly held 12,000 Palestinian prisoners, and the ones in US prisons and "detention" (death) centers, prisons in the UK, Australia – they are all the same. The prisoners are living under forced displacement, oppression, occupation. We are interconnected and inseparable. Our resistance should transcend man-made invisible lines.

Resist, together. Globalize the intifada. Its the only way to free Palestine , and all oppressed people of the world.

Love Rage & Solidarity, Malik

# Update from the Hole

**October 22, 2025**

I've broken down Oregon's hole abuses before and documented their violations many times, as yet another year passes, another winter spent in segregation. Actually, spring, summer, fall, and now, winter again. Spent in the most freezing cells, no phone access, and mail obstructions with no mail violation notices.

I'm bound to this freezing cell they keep AC blowing in, day and night, despite it being winter. It's the exact circumstances as last year in the hole. I've been in segregation for two years, with barely a month between. SRCI, OSP, same hole, same SHU, same abuse. These hole practices are heinous, barbaric, archaic, harsh, punitive, unjustified, and ineffective in achieving any semblance of "rehabilitation." It's a purely, strictly harmful, vengeful scheme, one that exacts a heavy toll on those incarcerated and their families.

Every day that goes by, a piece of me dies. Today, as I learn again, I'm gonna be held here longer. I'm running on fumes, almost out of steam. I want to cry most days, on the ones that I don't want to die. Intrusive thoughts plague my mind, locked away, far from sunshine, just the dark, cold and damp, bright fluorescent lights that persist day and night. Even if I didn't have a back and shoulder injury that kept me up all night in pain, I still couldn't sleep. Not with these lights.

It's cold as a refrigerator in here. Literally, the cartons of milk can be kept good, just by sitting in this cell. That's how cold it is. That is, provided they give us milk that isn't already expired and long past its due date. I am tired, and the new director of DOC was on OPB, preaching prisons being rehabilitory and not punitive, not warehouses. When I look out my cell, I see rows of storage shelves, cold storage. A warehouse of human meats for the grinding down by the system's impressive repressive machine.

Matt Reese pretends not to see a thing because OSP and OSCI are the prize. EOCI, SRCI, TRCI, all the eastern Oregon facilities are meant for beating people in line, literally. OSCI and OSP, they'll parade legislators around, and Matt Reese will frequent, but he wouldn't dare come out here to see TRCI, overflowed with inmates warehoused, in line for IMU and SRCI, that's also packed full. Dubbed "programming units," only to escape the label of what they actually are: black holes that suck us in and won't let go.

Segstitutionalization, a form of recidivism. Once you go, you're on the list, tagged profiled, even if you get out. Watched. Expected to slip, set up to fail, often sending enemies on the same mainlines, knowing they'll get in trouble, get into fights, and come back. Or they just don't release you at all. You prepare to come back the second you leave. When you're out, even the most petty thing can bring you back, should you get in trouble within six months of the release from SEG. Or you're just someone they've just tagged as trouble. The green tag STM gives you, not unlike the identifiers given to individuals in death camps. Identifying your trouble, prompting every CEO to watch you closely, profile you intently and lock you back up quick. Not unlike the set up that is probation, fines and fees included. You pay the state for each stay in segregation like it's a five star hotel and not a concrete hell, a grave, stone cold.

As I write this, my hand is like ice. I want to retreat to my blankets. This uncomfortable concrete slab topped with a mat and the square pillow I'm given. I can lay in pain, in some warmth, or sit upright on this metal stool and write. Cold.

I don't even remember what a semblance of freedom is like. All my life, I've lived under the thumb of oppressive institutions, from home to schools, to behavioral health units, intent on diagnosing you with oppositional defiance disorder, to juvie and forced rehab, to the military, and now prison. Within prison, that is segregation.

Perhaps the most free I was, was as a homeless teen, singing on the streets, though of course, even then, I knew, no one is free until we all are. I think of Gazan's open air rubble prison, and the people forced to negotiate themselves out of their own genocide. Make that make sense. As we in segregation must demonstrate to our oppressors, our right not to be back here, how must one convince the violent oppressor we are "ready"? Like Gazans must jump through hoops to be independent of that zionist fascist regime?

Some people say, "I don't know how you do it, man. I couldn't, if I were you." Like I have a fucking choice. I'd break out if I could, in a heartbeat, like Assata decided she just was done being in prison. I've been there. I